(b) and (c) The new syllabi for Mathematics and the Sciences prepared by the NCERT have been introduced in the Kendriya Vidyalayas one year in advance of the other schools. In the All India Senior Secondary Certificate Examination conducted by the CBSE in March, 1990, separate question papers were administered only for the Mathematics and Science subjects-one set for the Kendriya Vidyalayas and another set for other schools affiliated to the CBSE. The following steps were taken to ensure that the students in Kendriya Vidyalayas appearing in that examination were not put to difficulties:—

(i) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan conducted 15 in-service courses for Trained Graduate Teachers and 11 for Post-Graduate Teachers during May-June, 1989 to orient them on the new syllabi for Mathematics and Science subjects.

(ii) For giving an idea of the standard of questions to be set in the All India Senior Secondary Certificate Examination conducted by the CBSE in March, 1990, the CBSE brought out Sample question papers and circulated them well before March, 1990.

(iii) Special arrangements were made by the Kendriya Vidyalayas for extra coaching in Science subjects and Mathematics. For admission to higher studies, all students clearing the All India Senior Certificate Examination conducted by the CBSE in March, 1990 have been treated equally.

Montreal Protocol

1514. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to sign the "Montreal Protocol" as reported in Indian Express dated 11th July, 1990. If so, the reasons due to which the protocol has not been signed so far;

(b) which substances are being used in India which deplete the Ozone layer; and

(c) whether any R&D work is being carried out to phase out the use of chloroflurocarbons and what are the possible substitutes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, has not been signed so far by India as it did not adequately meet our concerns. The recently conculded meeting of the Parties to the Protocol held at London from June 27—29, 1990 has approved certain amendments to the Protocol. In the light of the decisions arrived at in the London Conference, India is considering the issue of joining the Montreal Protocol.

(b) Different compounds of CFCs, HCFC-22, Methyl Chloroform, Carbon tetra chloride and Halons used in India contribute, though to a very small extent, to the depletion of the ozone layer.

(c) The institutions of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are engaged in research and development to phase out the use of CFCs. HCFC-22, whose ozone depleting potential is very small and HFC 134 A are possible substitutes for some uses.

Extinction of herbal plants due to deforestation

1515. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that illegal deforestation is destroying many valuable herbs if so, details thereof;

(b) what was the extent of deforestation during 1989-90;

(c) what are the herbal plants which have become extinct due to deforestation;

(d) which are the herbal plants that have been endangered due to deforestation; and

(e) what corrective steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government to protect and propagate endangered species of medicinal plants?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (d) No assessment has been made regarding loss of herbal plants as a result of deforestation.

(e) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under implementation for "plantation of minor forest produce including medicinal plants". An amount of Rs. 4 crores is proposed to be spent during 1990-1991.

Assistance for Ocean Development

1516. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries which have offered assistance to India for Ocean Development;

(b) the details of the offer made; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark have provided assistance to India for Ocean Development.

(b) (i) The Government of Federal Republic of Germany provided a research vessel Sagar Kanya in 1983 under a long term soft loan agreement. The total cost of the ship was approximately Rs. 31 crores. In addition, the Federal Republic of Germany also provided shipboard equipment costing approximately Rs. 9 crores as a grant.

(ii) Another ship Sagar Sampada was acquired in 1984 for research relating to living resources from Denmark, under a long term agreement with Danish Government. The total cost of the vesel was approximately Rs. 15 crores. The Danish Government has also agreed to finance the purchase of a coastal research vessel under a similar loan agreement. Procurement of this coastal vessel is currently being processed.

(c) Since their acquisition, the two research vessels, Sagar Kanya and Sagar Sampada have been primarily deployed for survey and exploration of non-living and living resources in the Exclusive, Economic Zone (EEZ) of India. Additionally, Sagar Kanya has also been deployed for surveying deep sea nodule occurrences and environmental studies in the Central Indian Ocean as well as survey of resources in the EEZ of friendly countries notably Seychelles, Mauritius and Carribean countries.

Inflow of Authentic Data by NIC for the Planning Process

1517. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Information Centre (NIC) had envisa unhindered inflow of authentic data through its own network from all corners of the country for effective conceptulisation of the Planning process;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed its achievements *vis-a-vis* its goals; if so, the difference between the two; and

(c) what are Government's future plans about the National Informatics Centre?